

# AMERICAN GIRLS ANGELS OF MERCY FOR DESTITUTE FRENCH PEASANTS

(Correspondence Associated Press.)  
FRENCH FRONT, Oct. 11.—A small band of Smith college girls is mothering the distressed populations of those districts of France devastated by the Germans before they were forced to retreat last spring by the victorious French and British troops who had hammered them on the Somme. The correspondent of the Associated Press passed a day with the young women in the war zone where they have arrived to install themselves in the midst of the stricken people. They have made their headquarters in the grounds of the Chateau of Robercourt. There they live in shacks and portable houses in sight of the blackened ruins of the castle, burned by the Germans. From this center they go to twelve villages which have been taken over for relief by the American college girls. Before the war they had altogether a population of approximately 4,000. Now this has been reduced to about 1,200.

The American "angels of mercy," as the Smith college girls are known, brought with them from America or purchased in Paris large stores of articles of first necessity for the people. Many of the peasants had money which they had been able to conceal from the Germans, and these people were quite willing to pay for articles provided by the girls. Others among the peasants were destitute of both goods and money and for these the American girls made charitable provision.

The girls brought motor trucks, and several of them are motor drivers. Once or twice a week each of the villages in their district receives a visit from a party of the girls in their trucks, which are loaded with necessities, and these are sold to the peasants at cost price or less, and thus many of the needs of the people are met. Food, linen, clothing, furniture, kitchen utensils and live chickens and rabbits are most desired.

Other branches of assistance to the people take the form of a traveling dispensary, the giving of medical advice by the two women doctors from Smith college who are members of the squad, the foundation of nurseries for the care of the smaller infants while their mothers are working, and the establishment of play rooms for the other children.

The care of the children is one of the most important parts of the girls' work. In the first place, the little ones have to be taught to play, for during the German occupation they were not allowed to do so and in most cases had forgotten how to amuse themselves in simple games. It is wonderful how soon they learn under the American girls' encouragement and leadership. Then the neglected little ones are taken in hand and taught the value of cleanliness and neatness. For the women much help is provided in the way of sewing classes and instruction in modern hygiene.

It is hoped here that the work of the Smith college girls, forming the first unit, in cheering up and helping these stricken peasants may be an incentive to others to undertake similar labors in the hundreds of villages which have suffered from the German occupation. Every where in the Somme and Oise and other French departments now partially freed from the German troops there are similar opportunities.

Dr. Alice Weld Tallant of Philadelphia is the director, and she is assisted by Dr. Maud Kelly, as assistant physician; Miss Lucy O. Mather of Hartford, Conn., as secretary; Miss Marie Wolfe of Newark, N. J., a Belgian refugee, as head of the social service; Miss Anne Chapin of Springfield, Mass., on social service and nursing; Miss Millie Lewis of Irvington, N. Y., as a chauffeur and ambulance driver; Miss Catherine Hooper of Montclair, N. J., social service; Miss Marjorie Carr, chauffeur and social service; Miss Ruth Joslin, chauffeur and nurse; Miss Marion Bennett, Cambridge, Mass., chauffeur and social service; Miss Margaret Wood, Pasadena, Cal., chauffeur and in care of children; Miss Ruth Gaines, New York City, social service and writer; Miss Elizabeth Bliss, Worcester, Mass., nurse; Miss Elizabeth Dana, Worcester, Mass., nurse; Miss Alice Leavens, Boston, head of the children's department; Miss Fabelle Stock and Miss Harriett Hawes.

## TICK QUARANTINE IS LIFTED BY UNITED STATES IN BIG TERRITORY

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—An order signed by Secretary of Agriculture D. F. Houston lifts on December 1 from 65,520 square miles in southern states the federal quarantine against movement of southern cattle. It is of great importance to cattle raisers and dealers of northern states, as well as those of the South.

In regions infested by the cattle tick it has not been held safe to import better stock for the improvement of southern herds because cattle freely brought in from regions where the tick is not prevalent are especially prone to sicken and die from the fever germs carried by the blood-sucking parasite. The federal quarantine against the cattle tick, on the other hand, has prevented the shipment of cattle from infested

sections for use as stockers and feeders in free territory, and permits their shipment into free territory only under quarantine restrictions and for immediate slaughter.

The release order for December 1 frees the largest amount of territory ever liberated at one time since the federal campaign against the cattle tick was started in 1906, and added to 5,234 square miles freed in March and September, will make 1917 by far the greatest year so far in the annihilation of the tick.

Nine southern states will benefit by the release order. The largest beneficiary will be Mississippi, which will be entirely freed from quarantine and will open a broad avenue of tick-free territory from the northern states to the Gulf of Mexico.

### FRANCAIS FOR SOLDIERS.

(By Associated Press.)  
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Nov. 15.—"let on parle Francais."  
This is the sign that may soon be hung over every barracks door or painted on every office window in the Western department of the United States army.

Classes of thousands of soldiers at a time are being taught conversational French, and are proving apt pupils. The old Oregon building on the site of the Panama-Pacific International exposition is being utilized as a class room by the instructors.

chief among whom is Professor Theodore Bisenz of the Paris Academy of Arts and Letters.

### RICE IS NOT A GRAIN.

(By Associated Press.)  
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Nov. 16.—The superior court has ruled it cannot class rice as grain in the establishment of a shipping tariff, deciding against the California Rice Growers' association's suit for the return of \$2,650, alleged to have been overcharged by the Southern Pacific for rice shipments.

## NEW RULES CONSIDERED COMBAT ALIEN ACTIVITY

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Final consideration of new drastic regulations governing aliens is before the cabinet today.

It is expected the regulations will deal efficiently with the menace of spies and bomb plots, conveying information to Germany and other activities intended to hamper the government in the conduct of the war. They will be drawn by the attorney general, who favors strong action, and will be embodied in a presidential proclamation when finally approved.

The question of forcing enemy aliens from vantage points on the seaboard, as well as forbidding them entry to certain barred zones, will be among the principal considerations.

### AVOID EXTREMES.

(By Associated Press.)  
OAKLAND, Cal., Nov. 15.—A warning to avoid extremes in the conservation of food has been issued by Mrs. W. E. Gibson, president of the Fruitvale Woman's club here. Mrs. Gibson urges families not to figure so closely and eat so sparingly that their health will be affected. She states that such a course would be far more dangerous than wasting foodstuffs. She urges diet classes on a wholesale scale in order that families may be better advised as to what to eat and what quantities to serve.

# TRADE COUNCIL WOULD REVISE U.S. NAVIGATION LAWS TO HELP FLEET

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—All who want to see the American merchant fleet not only regain, but retain, its former high position among the world's shipping are urged by the national foreign trade council to cooperate with the United States shipping board in an effort to revise the navigation laws so as to lift the handicap from American vessels.

"The removal of all inequalities and injustices from the American navigation system, enabling American shipping to maintain itself upon an equitably competitive basis with other nations with due regard to American standards of living and compensation, is absolutely essential to the permanency of the forthcoming rehabilitation of the American merchant marine," asserts the foreign trade council in a report and resolution submitted to the shipping board.

The council urges "all who are interested in insuring the permanent restoration of the American flag to the recognized place it formerly held in the carrying trade of the world generously to co-operate with the United States shipping board for the purpose of securing the necessary revision and amendment of the navigation laws in time to render effective service in the operation of the new American fleet."

Accompanying the resolution is a report prepared by the council's committee on merchant marine, and

### WOULD SAVE STOCK.

(By Associated Press.)  
BOZEMAN, Mont., Nov. 15.—The cattle and sheep interests of Montana, which have been hit by the recent unprecedented dry spell, are being urged not to slaughter their valuable breeding stock, but to sell it to stock raisers of other states where grazing is plentiful. The Montana State College of Agriculture, which is located here, has started a campaign to save this stock for breeding purposes, even if the state has to cut down a trifle on its meat supply.

The national livestock commission has been asked to help the movement along, especially in regard to government grazing lands. It is stated that holders of national forest grazing permits have about 10,000 breeding cows and 110,000 breeding ewes that are being offered for sale this fall. Every effort will be made to have this stock sold in states where they may continue to breed.

### BANDIT GETS \$17,000.

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW CASTLE, Pa., Nov. 16.—A highwayman held up and wounded A. D. Farrell, superintendent of the limestone company, killed a guard and escaped with \$17,000, which was being taken to pay the employees at Hillsville.

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signed by James A. Farrell, chairman of the council and president of the United States Steel corporation, and P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine company. Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the shipping board, is a member of the council.

The report shows that the program of the shipping board covers the construction and other acquisition of 2,300 vessels of a total dead weight tonnage of nearly 14,000,000 tons.

The committee points out that the experience of Great Britain has proved that less than 60 per cent of British foreign trade is carried in British bottoms.

"If the carriage of 60 per cent of American foreign trade in American ships," says the committee, "would render the United States reasonably free from the necessity of employing a foreign merchant marine for its carrying trade, the program of the shipping board and emergency fleet corporation at present under execution would accomplish the desired result."

"In 1915," continues the report, "1,871,543 tons of American shipping carried one-seventh, 14.3 per cent, of the total foreign commerce of the United States. On this basis a fleet of 13,100,801 tons would have been required for the transportation of the entire foreign commerce of the country. But on the basis of British

### OLD TRAIL FOR AUTOS.

(By Associated Press.)  
SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 15.—One of the pioneer gateways to the interior of Alaska, the old Valdez trail, will become a scenic driveway for motorists after the war, according to Brigadier General W. P. Richardson, who has been chairman of the Alaska road commission since 1905 and who is known as the pioneer road builder of the North.

General Richardson, while here recently, said his ambition was to see the day when tourists will ship their automobiles by steamer to Valdez, on the southern coast, and enjoy a motor trip of 370 miles over the mountain trail past the Valdez glacier to Fairbanks and the Tanana valley.

"The trail will take the tourists through a wonderland of mountains, canyons, lakes, mighty rivers and glaciers," the general asserted. "They will follow the path of the hundreds of pioneers who crossed the trail in the stampede days of 1898."



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